Sri Lanka under the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Area wihtout any sourcing conditions and port restrictions in terms of an MoU signed on 5.10.2007 between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka. The above mentioned quantities represent a small percentage of the domestic consumption, and are unlikely to adversely affect the domestic garment industry.

Exploiting potentiality of jute sector in Orissa

3233. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRIRUDRANARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether jute has good potential in Orissa but only 15000 farmers in the State are engaged in this sector on account of lack of marketing facilities and financial problems faced by these farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of the Centre to help the State to exploit this potential in a big way to improve the economy of rural folk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Jute production require sufficient rains and sub-soil moisture which is lacking throughout the State of Orissa and, therefore, it is grown only in 4 districts *viz.* Kendrapara, Cuttack, Bhadrak and Baleswar.

Jute farmers of Orissa generally have no problem of marketing their produce since there is stiff competition from the Buyer Jute Mills of southern State and Orissa. The Jute Corporation on India (JCI) is also operating at 6 places in Orissa in the above mentioned districts and is purchasing raw jute when jute prices rule at Minimum Support Price (MSP) orbelow at MSP. Year-wise production of raw jute *vis-a-vis* year-wise procurement of jute by JCI through its 6 Departmental Purchase Centres are as under:-

Year Year	Area (in Hec.)	Production in bales of l80 Kgs each	JCI procurement (Bales)	Remarks
2003-04	13710	1,50,000	1,33,439	Under MSP
2004-05	7010	1,09,000	10,861	Under MSP
2005-06	9850	93,030	Nil	Ruling Price above MSP
2006-07	12585	1,19,000	5,433	-do-
2007-08	10990	1,15,000	97,539	Under MSP

(c) As per National Jute Policy, 2005, Government of India has launched Jute Technology Mission under which there are provisions for production of better quality seeds. In addition to this there are schemes Under Mini Mission-Ill for construction of jute retting tanks to demonstrate new retting technology and imparting training to the jute growers to improve quality of raw jute. There is a.provision for constructions of Departmental Purchase Centre of JCI to improve marketing facilities for farmers. The above schemes are being executed in jute growing areas, including Orissa.